

The research and development of new technologies will move our country towards energy independence

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(201) 222-2828

Contact: Olga Alvarez

(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Albio Sires voted today to start the vital process of offering the American people an alternative at the gas pump. H.R. 547, the Advanced Fuels Infrastructure Research and Development Act, makes biofuels like E85 ethanol easier to access and use.

"There's a long way to go before consumers have more fuel choices, but we have to take the first step," said Congressman Albio Sires. "This bill speeds up that process in that it allows for research into making biofuels more compatible with existing infrastructure, which means we can get biofuels to gas tanks sooner."

Many biofuels have different physical and chemical properties that make them incompatible with petroleum-based infrastructure. Tank and pipeline corrosion, sediment buildup and clogged filters can result if other substances are pumped into the existing systems. H.R. 547 directs the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in consultation with the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to research and develop new technologies. This saves fuel distributors and retailers the extremely high cost of updating or refurbishing infrastructure.

"Alternative fuels are already a reality in Brazil where E85 is part of daily life. Americans should have the freedom of diversity, not only easing the cost of the fuels they need, but also ensuring a cleaner environment and less dependence on foreign oil for future generations," said Congressman Sires.